ACTION

SECRET/NODIS

November 21, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: John H. Holdridge

SUBJECT: Warsaw Talks and Taiwan Strait Patrol

State is thinking of using the elimination of the Taiwan Strait patrol as
a lever to encourage the Chinese to wish to reopen the Warsaw talks.
Prior to the formal pitch we will make at the Ambassadorial talks to   25X1
the Chinese Communists in Warsaw on our modification of the Taiwan
Strait patrol -- and as a means of re-starting such talks

25X1

25X1

They say that
with the adjustments in ship movements through the Taiwan Strait made
to satisfy the GRC about our continued presence there, it might otherwise
take a while for Peking to learn of the modification (i. e. suspension) of
the Taiwan Strait patrol. (In order to reassure President Chiang, we are
routing some fifteen ships a month through the Strait to make up in part
for the elimination of the destroyer patrol.)

I assume that, in the formal channel at Warsaw, State intends to make
clear that we are not withdrawing from our commitments. (State's
purpose is simply to make some political capital out of a decision taken
on budgetary grounds; we would not want the ploy to be misinterpreted as
a signal of diminished US interest, which could conceivably encourage
Chinese Communist pressure against the offshore islands or elsewhere.
I shall be sure that you clear any instruction to Warsaw.)

DOS, NSS reviews completed.

Although as a general rule I believe we should sheer away from gim-
mickry such as this, I consider that under the confusing circumstances
which are developing in the Taiwan Strait it would be advisable to move
ahead. The draft telegram has already been cleared all over the place,
but unless Under Secretary Johnson discussed it with you directly, the
matter was not put to us until the draft actually arrived.

SECRET/NODIS   LG:pas:11/21/69

SECRET/NODIS   -2-

RECOMMENDATION:

That you clear the draft message at Tab A.

Approve _✓___   Disapprove_____

Att.

SECRET/NODIS